

CLAIMS:

1. A spinning reel comprising: a drive system comprising
an axially extending, rotatable pinion and an axially oscillatable spindle,
a fishing line spool suitable for retaining an extended length of fishing line,
said spool being coupled to said spindle,
a bail assembly rotatably mounted to pivot about said spool with a rotor
between an "open" position in which said fishing line is freely removed from said spool
and a "closed" position for engaging said line and winding said line about said spool,
a rotation clutch having an engaged or "on" state and a disengaged or "off"
state so that when in said engaged state said bail assembly may only rotate so as to wind
tensioned line onto said spool in a winding direction, and when in said disengaged state
said bail assembly may rotate in said winding direction or in an unwinding direction that
allows tensioned line to be unwound from said spool, and
wherein said bail assembly is coupled to engage or disengage said rotation
clutch so that (a) said clutch is disengaged from said pinion at a partially open position
located between said closed position and said open position, and (b) said clutch returns
to said engaged state when said bail assembly is moved back to said closed position.
2. A reel according to claim 1 wherein said reel further comprises a linkage member that is
rotationally coupled to said rotor off-center of a pivot axis for said rotor.
3. A reel according to claim 2 wherein said linkage member is axially displaced as said bail
assembly is opened.
4. A reel according to claim 3 further comprises an axially displaceable ring member that is
axially displaced when said linkage member is axially displaced.

5. A reel according to claim 4 wherein said ring member further comprises a cam surface that engages an actuator linked to engage or disengage said rotation clutch.
6. A reel according to claim 5 wherein said ring member is spring-biased towards a position in which said clutch is engaged.
7. A reel according to claim 5 wherein said actuator is spring-biased towards a position in which said clutch is engaged.
8. A reel according to claim 5 wherein said actuator comprises a lever switch.
9. A reel according to claim 1 wherein said bail assembly comprises a bail arm in guiding alignment with a line guide roller.
10. A reel according to claim 9 wherein said line guide roller exhibits a smooth groove suitable for guiding fishing line onto said spool when said bail assembly is rotated in said winding direction.